

10/593835  
IAP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO 22 SEP 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : José Carlos Albano Do Amarante et al.  
Serial No. :  
Filed :  
PCT NO. : PCT/EP2004/000163  
IFD : September 2, 2004  
TC/A.U. :  
Confirmation No:  
Examiner :  
  
Docket No. : 06-476  
Customer No. : 34704

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In the above-identified application for United States patent,  
please amend as follows.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on Page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims  
which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on Page 6 of this paper.